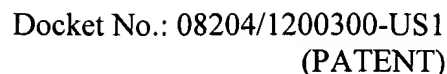


3724



**In re Patent Application of:  
Scott P. Tennican et al.**

Confirmation No.: 3724

Art Unit: 2161

Examiner: E. P. Leroux

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated December 1, 2004, rejecting claims 1-27, Applicants submit the following amendments, and respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified U.S. patent application in view of the remarks that follow.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.